

Doubling the Farmer's Wheat Dollar

By Charles W. Holman
(In the Country Gentleman)



DOUBLING the farmer's share of the wheat dollar is one of the wartime jobs Uncle Sam has done since food control became possible. After five months of grappling with the problem, Uncle Sam is now translating into the pockets of both producers and consumers benefits derived by the Nation. He has shut off speculation, produced a free market and movement of all grades of wheat, cut expenses and induced a normal flow of wheat in natural directions, and effected a thousand other economies.

The Food Administration Grain Corporation, which supervises the sale, or itself buys every bushel of wheat produced in the Nation in its progress from country elevator to foreign buyers or domestic consumers, marks a new step toward national efficiency. How in four short months it has been done is told in these following episodes wherein two bushels of wheat traveled to market.

One fine fall afternoon, Col. Bill Jenkins, who farms somewhere in Missouri, loaded his wheat into a wagon and drove along the black road that led across the prairie to town. When he reached the co-operative elevator of which he was a stockholder, he pulled up on the scales, checked his gross weight carefully, and began to unload. The manager came out and asked:

"When you want to sell this wheat?"

"I dunno," he answered. "One time's about as good as another—these days. I won't weigh any more later," he added, with a dry smile.

"What's the wheat?" asked Col. Jenkins, getting interested.

"Well, let me see," parleyed the manager. "I guess this wheat'll be a good No. 2 under the new grades."

"Grades? What about grades? That Food Administration seems to mix into mighty high everything from rabbits to axle grease."

"Hold on, Colonel," said the elevator man, good-naturedly. "The Food Administration isn't to blame. Congress passed the act and told the Department of Agriculture to fix the grades. They became effective last July. I sent out a letter on it."

"Well, I guess you better sell for the best you can," said the farmer. "I am needed at home." And he drove away.

A New Order in the Grain World.

CONVERSATIONS of this kind might have taken place in almost every town in the great grain belt of the Nation after August 10, for revolution in grain marketing was taking place. Uncle Sam had started on this remarkable experiment; he was going to see whether wheat could be marketed minus take-offs to those speculators. This necessitated complete control by the Government of storage facilities, transportation and distributive agencies, and the marketing machinery for wheat and rye.

Everybody was troubled; most of all, the officials of the Food Administration Grain Corporation who had undertaken, without salary, and at the sacrifice of their personal connection with the grain trade, to help shape the forces that would drive forward the big business machine for marketing American wheat. A single control; and a \$50,000,000 non-profit-making corporation to do the work.

This work is a necessary arm of the Food Administration, allowing the Government to do business quickly and without red tape. Its stock is held in trust by the President of the United States. For the time of the war it will supervise the rate or purchase the part commercially available of the 900,000,000 bushels of wheat and the 30,000,000 surplus of rye grown in America in 1917. Its job is to find a market for every bushel, irrespective of class and grade. Under its patronage, where seedlings are moving just as easily as No. 1 Northern. It must also work out satisfactorily the local prices for wheat at each of almost 20,000 country elevator points, adjust thousands of complaints, organize the gathering and analysis of data, inspect concerns reported as dealing unfairly, solve vexatious disagreements among the trade, and deal effectively with the allies' purchases of wheat and the neutrals who may desire to purchase.

In the early days, following the determination of prices for 1917 wheat by the President's Fair Price Commission, confusion existed in every part of the wheat-producing regions. This was intensified by the inauguration of the new grain grades as promulgated by the Department of Agriculture, which took place about the same time, and led to diverse complaints and a feeling among farmers that the Grain Corporation of the Food Administration was responsible for both the price as determined and the unfairness of grain grades. But the corporation was responsible for neither act. It is pure-

ly an administrative arm of the Government formed to buy grain or supervise its sale at the prices determined by the commission, and it must do its work on the basis of the new grades. But to return to our farmer and his expectations of price.

Introducing Two Bushels of Wheat.

Lying side by side in his wagon had been 2 bushels of wheat that fate had marked for strangely different ends. They were very much alike, those bushels of wheat, and to look at them you would not have suspected the strange and wonderful adventures in store for them. Yet one was destined to travel abroad for consumption in France; the other to find its way into Georgia, where it was milled and its flour finally reached a New York baker on the East Side. But in the sum of the travels made by the two, as we shall follow them, will be unfolded the international panorama of wheat marketing in time of war.

Finding a Price at a Country Point.

High war costs of production gave our Missouri farmer much concern as to his returns and accounted for his depression over the prospects of his wheat "grading down"; for that meant a reduction of 3 cents per bushel under the No. 1 grade. But it graded No. 2.

The elevator would also deduct an additional 5 cents a bushel to cover the fixed charge made in this locality for handling and selling. The 5-cent charge included the commission of 1 cent per bushel customary in 1917 among commission men for selling the wheat to domestic millers or foreign buyers.

The elevator man was none too sure as to how to get at the price which this wheat should bring. He knew considerably more about human nature than freight rates and decided to "check up" the problem to the nearest zone agent of the Grain Corporation. So he wrote a letter to the representative stationed at St. Louis. That letter was referred to the traffic expert in the New York office, who transmitted the following rule for determining the price of wheat at any country point:

There is only one price for wheat at a country point. That price is always to be arrived at by taking as a basis the price at the most advantageous primary market where we have fixed a price and deducting the freight to that market and a fair handling profit. That is the price to be paid for wheat at any station, regardless of the point to which it may be shipped.

Working out the price which should be paid for wheat at your station is a fine occupation for an off day. If you cannot find the answer, write to the Food Administration Grain Corporation in New York City and its traffic expert will give you aid.

Finding the Price of No. 2 Wheat at Sikeston.

Take an actual example: An elevator man in Sikeston, Mo., wanted to know what price No. 2 wheat should bring at his station when No. 1 wheat at New York City was \$2.28 per bushel. Here is how he went about it:

The freight rate from Sikeston to New York being 16.98 cents per bushel, he deducted that from \$2.28 per bushel and found the price at Sikeston to be \$2.1102. From this he deducted 1 cent per bushel for the commission firm's charges, which put the net price f. o. b. Sikeston at \$2.1002.

He next compared this price with what he could get if he sold at St. Louis, his nearest primary market. At St. Louis the basic price is \$2.18 per bushel, and the freight rate from Sikeston to St. Louis 6 cents per bushel. This would make the Sikeston price \$2.12, less 1 cent per bushel for selling charges, or \$2.11 net. The St. Louis price would therefore govern, being advantageous to the Sikeston seller.

If our imaginary 2 bushels of wheat had started from Sikeston, since it was a No. 2 grade, we must deduct 3 cents per bushel, which would bring the price f. o. b. the elevator point to \$2.0802 per bushel. As our imaginary elevator man is charging 5 cents per bushel for handling, which includes the commission fee just mentioned, we deduct an additional 4 cents to arrive at the price the farmer received. This price would be \$2.0402 at the elevator. Some of that 4 cents will return to our farmer if the elevator prospers; for it is owned co-operatively.

When Farmer and Elevator Man Disagree.

Had this elevator been owned by private arm or person, or had it been a "line" plant, Col. Jenkins would not have been so bland and trustful.

He might have refused to sell at all and arranged to store his wheat or he might have taken it over to a competitive concern which offered a higher price; for the Food Administration has not yet attempted to regulate the prices paid farmers for wheat at country points. It does, however, offer to sell for any farmer or farmers' organization wheat offered at terminal points, but makes a commission charge of 1 per cent for its services.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

Deeds filed in the Recorder's office, Lexington, Lafayette Co., Missouri, week ending Saturday, March 23, 1918. Compiled by Lafayette County Abstract Company, Lexington, Missouri. Ike H. Noyes, Manager.

Kittie E. Graham and husband to C. J. & Elizabeth Salley W. D. \$800 lots 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 block "G" Original Aulville.

Albert R. Darrah and wife to Millard W. & Lucinda J. Roberts \$9095 NE NE except S 5 A. NW NE & NE NW except 7 A. 36-49-26.

Wm. Gerken and wife to Wm. Maring W. D. \$12900 E SE, SE NE 20-48-24.

Allen S. Brownfield and wife to Price G. Haynie W. D. \$7500 NW SW, N SW SW, NW SE SW part NE SE SW 18-48-28, 71-30 A.

Lena B. Franke and husband to Anna Fricke W. D. \$1600 part SE corner NE NE 12-48-24.

John Stockman and wife to Edward Stockman W. D. \$3360 37 A. E side SE SW & 30 A. E side NE SW 23-49-24, 24-67 A.

John Reinwald and wife to R. E. Smith W. D. \$7000 SE SW, NE SW 31-49-25.

Ambrose A. Day and husband to Ethel D. Felts W. D. \$5400 NE SE, part NW SE, part SW NE 5, roadway N end NW SW SW 4-48-28.

Ells H. Fulton to Chas Duvall W. D. \$300 part NW NW 12-49-28, 3 acres.

Articles of Incorporation of Carbon Coal Mining Co., Waverly, Mo., capital stock \$100,000.

Wm. Maring to B. A. Hoelscher W. D. \$10,500 N NE 21, NW NW 22-48-25.

Henry Bossellmann and wife to Wm. Maring W. D. \$3500 lot 9 and 10 feet S side lot 10 block J Concordia.

Henry C. Kehr and wife to Rudolph Ahring W. D. \$1900 Sub "C" of Corse's Sub. of lot 10 Sub. Add Wellington.

Wm. Heins and wife to Theo. Heins W. D. \$10,900 NE NW, NW NE 21, S SE 16-49-24.

August Wildschultz and wife to John Murry W. D. \$21165 W NW 7-49-28, E NE 12-49-29.

Nancy B. Robinson to Jos. D. & Cassie Barker W. D. \$11,900 NW SE, E SW 8-48-27.

W. B. Douglass, Wm. Gaffin and Herbert Mayer went to Kansas City Sunday morning as delegates to the district convention of the U. M. W. of A.

Mrs. F. Kratzer went to Napton Sunday morning for a visit.

Mr. and Mrs. N. Talbot went to Waterloo Sunday morning to spend the day.

Try This For Sour Stomach.

Eat slowly, masticate your food thoroughly. Eat but little meat and none at all for supper. If you are still troubled with sour stomach take one of Chamberlain's Tablets before going to bed.

Lee J. Slusher went to Kansas City Monday to spend the day on business.

Mrs. Warren Sherman and little daughter left Sunday morning for a visit in Houston, Texas. Mr. Sherman accompanied them as far as Kansas City.

LOOK AT THIS

The best Pianos and Player Pianos to be had for the money. Come in and see if the above statement isn't correct. We also have a nice selection of Player Pianos, including the latest popular hits and some beautiful classics. Would be pleased to have you call and hear them.

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Notice.

All persons knowing themselves indebted to the Lexington Furniture Co. Please call and make payment to H. Swartz or at the Economy Store, 1104 Franklin St.

Lexington Furniture Co., 3-18tf.

The April Woman's Home Companion.

Holworthy Hall has the first half of a fine novel in the April Woman's Home Companion, and the second half is to appear next month. There is also a charming story by Mary E. Wilkins Freeman and the concluding part of "Sleeping Dogs" by Mary Hastings Bradley.

In "The Veil," Maude Radford Warren has written of the faith in communication between the living and the dead that the war has brought to many people. An account of how a small town made the country's record Liberty Loan subscription, a practice article on the motion picture in the schools, and a "mere man's" clever comments on feminism add to the excellence of this number.

Spring fashions are decidedly to the fore, but the other good departments, including cooking, the patriotic "Soldiers All," and the children's pages, are not at all crowded out and are more helpful than ever.

Forgot What He Needed.

From the Republican, Mt. Gilad, Ohio: The editor had an interesting experience some time ago, when a young gentleman came to this office and asked for a copy of the Morrow County Republican. He scrutinized it carefully when a copy was handed him, and then said: "Now I know!" "What is it you are looking for," we inquired. "My wife sent me after a bottle of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy, and I forgot the name. I went to several stores and the clerks named over everything in the line on the shelf except 'Chamberlain's.' I'll try again, and I'll never go home without Chamberlain's Cough Remedy." The Republican would suggest to the proprietors of stores, that they post their clerks, and never let them substitute. Customers lose faith in stores where substituting is permitted, to say nothing of the injustice to makers of good goods and the disappointment of customers. (Adv.)

John Chamberlain spent Sunday in Kansas City with relatives. He was accompanied home by his niece, Miss Margaret Chamberlain.

For a Bad Cold.

Take Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. It has stood the test of time and can be depended upon. (Adv.)

Mrs. W. A. Lindsay of Bolliver, Mo., and Mrs. N. A. Tindall went to Marshall Monday for a few days' visit.

Mrs. F. R. Smith returned to Kansas City Sunday morning after a visit with Mr. and Mrs. Joe Tribble.

Bad Taste in Your Mouth.

When you have a bad taste in your mouth you may know that your indigestion is faulty. A dose of Chamberlain's Tablets will usually correct the disorder. They also cause a gentle movement of the bowels. You will find this to be one of the best medicines you have ever become acquainted with. (Adv.)

Miss Clara Green returned

Monday from a visit in Sedalia. James Harris went to Kansas City Monday where he will enter the Missouri Pacific Hospital.

Mrs. Laura Hill and Miss Catherine Waters returned Sunday evening from a visit in Kansas City.

Mrs. J. K. Leiter and baby returned Sunday evening from a visit in Kansas City.

Auto For Sale.

Five passenger touring car in first class condition. All new tires. Call and look this over if you want a bargain.

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—the only exclusively first class train to Southern California via any line—carries Pullman to

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Fred Harvey management, the same as all our dining cars and 60 dining stations.

Besides the California Limited, the Santa Fe operates three other daily California trains, and once a week in winter—the Santa Fe de Luxe.

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May I make up your itinerary and send you booklets of trains and trip?

GEORGE W. HAGENBUCH, General Agent, Kansas City, Missouri.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF MISSOURI.

County of Lafayette—ss.

In the Circuit Court of Lafayette County, Missouri, June term, 1918, at Lexington, in vacation, March 18th, 1918.

Louis Frerking, Plaintiff

vs.

The Unknown consorts, heirs, devisees, donees, alienees, and immediate, mesne or remote, voluntary or involuntary grantees of Anselm Hargrave, deceased.

Now at this day comes the Plaintiff herein by his attorney, Thomas A. Walker, and files his petition, duly verified by the affidavit of plaintiff, alleging that the places of residence of the defendants are unknown to plaintiff and that they can not be served with the ordinary process of law as provided by the Statutes.

Plaintiff further states that he is the owner and in the lawful possession of the following described real estate situated in Lafayette County, Missouri, to-wit: Thirty acres off of the west side of the North west quarter of the south west quarter of section nineteen, township forty-eight, range twenty-four.

That the plaintiff and those under whom he claims title to said land, have been in the open, notorious, continuous, adverse, uninterrupted, quiet peaceable and exclusive possession of said land, claiming title thereto, and ownership thereof and paying taxes thereon for more than thirty-one years consecutively next before the filing of this petition and the institution of this suit, and that none of the defendants, nor any person under whom they claim or might claim title thereto have been in possession of said land or paid any taxes thereon within thirty-one years next before the filing of this petition, nor has any of the defendants or any person under whom they claim or might claim title thereto brought any action to recover said land or enforce any claims or interest in or to the same within one year after the expiration of thirty years after the right to bring such action accrued. Plaintiff states that the title to said real estate, both legal and equitable emanated from the United States Government more than thirty-one years next before the filing of this suit and that the title to the same has vested in plaintiff and those under whom he claims title by limitations in accordance with the provisions of the Statute Law of the State of Missouri, and particularly under and by virtue of section 1884 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri for the year 1909.

Plaintiff states that there are or that he verily believes there are persons interested in or who claim to be interested in the subject matter of this suit, whose names he can not insert herein because they are unknown to him and whom he can not further describe than as the unknown consorts, heirs, devisees, donees, alienees and immediate, mesne or remote, voluntary or involuntary grantees of Anselm Hargrave, deceased, and which unknown consorts, heirs, donees, devisees, alienees, and immediate, mesne or remote, voluntary or involuntary grantees of said Anselm Hargrave, deceased, derive or claim to derive title to said land or might appear to have some interest in said land through a warranty deed from William Harrington and wife to said Anselm Hargrave, of date August 22nd, 1840, and found of record in Book "G" at Page 702, Recorder's Office for Lafayette County, Missouri, and plaintiff states that said Anselm Hargrave died many years ago, without ever having conveyed said land and he can not state just what right, title or interest said unknown parties claim or might claim, but whatever right, title or interest they have or make to said premises is adverse and prejudicial to the interest of plaintiff in said land.

Plaintiff states that this petition contains as full, correct and complete recital and description of the claims of defendants and how such claims are derived as the same are known to plaintiff.

It is therefore ordered by the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Lafayette County, Missouri, in vacation that said defendants be notified by publication that the plaintiff has commenced a suit against them in this court the object and general nature of which is to obtain a judgment and decree of the Circuit Court of Lafayette County, Missouri, perfecting the Plaintiff's record title in and to the above described real estate and divesting any claim which the defendants or either of them make in and to said real estate or any part thereof, out of said defendants and vesting the same in the plaintiff and forever barring and precluding said defendants and each of them from making any claim to said real estate; and that unless said defendants be and appear before this court on the first day of the next term thereof, to be begun and holden at the Court House in the City of Lexington, County of Lafayette, on the 10th day of June, 1918, next, and on or before the first day thereof, answer or plead to the petition in said cause the same will be taken as confessed and judgment will be rendered accordingly.

It is further ordered that a copy hereof be published according to law in the Lexington Intelligencer, a newspaper published in said County of Lafayette, for four weeks successively, published at least once a week, the last insertion to be at least fifteen days before the first day of said next June, 1918, term of said Court.

W. T. TUTT, Circuit Clerk.

A true copy from the record.

Witness my hand and seal of the Circuit Court of Lafayette County, Missouri, this 18th day of March, 1918.

(SEAL) W. T. TUTT, Circuit Clerk.

3-22-18, 4t.

J. K. Leiter went to Kansas City Monday for a few days' visit.

Mrs. Phillip Hogan went to Higginsville Sunday evening for a visit.

E. T. Stier and H. T. Phillips spent Sunday in Kansas City.

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